

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The rejections presented in the Final Office Action dated October 3, 2005 (hereinafter the Office Action) have been considered. Claims 34-36 have been allowed. Claims 3-6, 8-9, 11-14, 17-20, and 23-27 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The allowability of Claims 34-36 and the conditional allowability of Claims 3-6, 8-9, 11-14, 17-20, and 23-27 is acknowledged, and the Applicant thanks the Examiner for favorable consideration of these claims. Claims 1, 9, 16, 28, 32, and 33 have been amended, and Claims 8 and 27 have been cancelled. Claims 1-7, 9-26, and 28-36 remain pending in the application.

Claims 1-2, 7, 10, 15-16, 21 and 32-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,463,534 to *Geiger et al.* (hereinafter Geiger) in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0004390 by *Cutaia et al.* (hereinafter "Cutaia").

Claim 22 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Geiger in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0004390 to *Cutaia et al.* (hereinafter Cutaia) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,367,013 to *Bisbee et al.* (hereinafter "Bisbee").

Claims 28-31 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,633,910 to *Rajan et al.* (hereinafter Rajan) in view of Geiger and further in view of Cutaia.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection to Claims 1-2, 7, 10, 15-16, 21-22 and 28-33. However, in order to facilitate prosecution, Applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 16, 28, 32, and 33. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of conditionally allowable Claim 8, and Claim 16 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of conditionally allowable Claim 27. Claims 8 and 27 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 9 has been amended for purposes of renumbering. Additionally, Claims 28, 32, and 33 have been amended to incorporate limitations analogous to those set forth in Claim 8. Therefore, based on the Examiner's indication of

conditional allowability of Claims 8 and 27, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 1, 16, 28, 32, and 33 are now in condition for allowance.

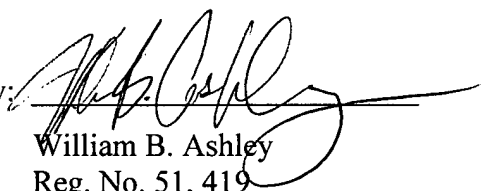
Rejected dependent Claims 2, 7, 10, and 15 depend from independent Claim 1. Rejected dependent Claims 21-22 depend from independent Claim 16. Rejected Claims 29-31 depend from independent Claim 28. While Applicant does not acquiesce with the particular rejections to these dependent claims, these rejections are now moot in view of the remarks made in connection with independent Claims 1, 16, and 28. These dependent claims include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and recite additional features which further distinguish these claims from the art relied upon in the Office Action. Therefore, dependent Claims 2, 7, 10, and 15 are also in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes it necessary or helpful, the undersigned agent of record invites the Examiner to contact him at 952-854-2700 to discuss any issues related to this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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